

BIOS 582 001 Sp22

Syllabus

Bios 581/2 – Graduate Seminar in Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Time and location Mondays, 2:00 – 3:15 pm, Keck 102

Online instruction option

If at any point in time the provost determines that classes must meet online due to the pandemic, we will meet at the usual time at the zoom link that can be accessed from Canvas.

Instructor (office hours by appointment)

Dr. Ed Nikonowicz GRB W100C edn@rice.edu

Dr. Susan Cates GRB W100A susan.cates@rice.edu

Course objectives and expected learning outcomes:

All BCB doctoral students are required to attend and participate through the completion of peer evaluation sheets and class discussions in BIOC 581/582. Beginning in the second year, BCB students annually present a research seminar. The expected outcomes are:

- To provide continuing exposure to and understanding of advanced topics in biochemistry and cell biology, including structural biology, systems and synthetic biology, molecular genetics, cell biology, and developmental biology, with an emphasis on fundamental principles, research methodologies, and critical analysis of primary literature.
- To increase knowledge of and experience with current research methodologies and their limitations
- To gain scientific communication experience through oral presentations
- To provide a forum for graduate students to gain expertise in presenting virtual scientific seminars
- To provide exposure to other ongoing research in the department
- To develop critical analysis skills by evaluating the seminars of other students

Course structure

Each week, one or two students will present a 30-minute research seminar, including Question & Answer. Students will present in person in Keck 102, but will record the seminar via zoom (practice your timing as 20 -25 minutes for presentation, 5 minutes for Q & A; there will be a 2 minute warning issued if the presenter reaches 25 minutes of presentation without arriving at the summary slide). The zoom links can be found at the bottom of the syllabus section of the Canvas site under Course Summary and in the graduate student google calendar. The instructor will log in at least 10 minutes before

class to enable screen sharing and troubleshooting; the first student presenting is responsible that presentations begin on time. Students who are quarantining, or who are ill, should notify the instructors and ask to participate via zoom; see attendance and participation section for details.

Dr. Nikonowicz or Dr. Cates will provide written (email) feedback of presentations to the speaker. Students who would like additional feedback or further discussion should not hesitate to contact the instructors. The students comprising the audience will fill out evaluation forms during the presentation. The evaluations are not for grading purposes, but to help students learn from the experience. Students' advisors and committee members are invited to the presentations, and the students are encouraged to ask the faculty to view to their presentations.

Because the audience has diverse backgrounds and includes first year students who may not have broad research backgrounds, presentations should be at a level that everyone can understand. Remember that written progress reports are due to the student advisor 2 weeks before the presentation and to the department administrator and faculty committee 1 week before the presentation.

Readings

There are no readings for this course.

Attendance and participation

Grades are Unsatisfactory (U) or Satisfactory (S). Attendance and satisfactory completion of the seminar evaluation form (inclusion of at least 3 substantial statements or questions) are required for receiving attendance credit for each meeting. Evaluations will be completed during class; students who receive permission to participate in one or more class sessions by zoom can access a copy of the evaluation form in the Files section of Canvas, fill it out and email it to the instructors. Evaluations will be reviewed the morning following the presentations for participation credit. Students will only be allowed 2 unexcused absences, but they will also have the option of asking for permission to view a recorded lecture to convert an unexcused absence into an excused absence. Three or more unexcused absences can result in a grade of U. Students should contact the instructors well ahead of the class to be missed to obtain an excused absence (attendance at a conference, etc). For unexpected issues (health, etc.), and emergencies contact the instructors as soon as possible after your event has occurred. Please contact the instructors in advance to receive permission for livestream or asynchronous participation if you are quarantining or if you are ill. The deadlines for submitting presentation evaluations for asynchronous students will be adjusted appropriately. It is very disruptive to enter a presentation late, please be on time. **Note that an unexcused tardiness of more than 5 minutes will be considered an absence.**

The initial schedule will be sent as a pdf and added to the Graduate Student Google Calendar. However, any speaker changes requested during the semester or other updates to the schedule will only be reflected in the Graduate Student Google Calendar,

so this should be the primary source of ongoing information for students. Contact Susan Cates if you do not have access to the Biosciences Graduate Student Google Calendar.

Participation during online instruction

If at any point in time the provost determines that classes must meet online due to the pandemic, evaluations can be submitted electronically through the quizzes section of Canvas. Note that quizzes will not be available in Canvas unless we are in a period of online-only instruction.

Grading

Grading is Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory based on satisfactory completion of the seminar evaluation forms, the student's presentation, and adherence to the attendance policy. Course can be repeated for credit.

Exams

No exams.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is encouraged to speak with Dr. Nikonowicz during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact the Rice University office for Disabled Student Services.

Title IX Responsible Employee Notification

At Rice University, unlawful discrimination in any form, including sexual misconduct, is prohibited under Rice Policy on Harassment and Sexual Harassment (Policy 830) and the Student Code of Conduct.

Please be aware that all employees of Rice University are "mandatory reporters," which means that if you tell us about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, we **must** share that information with the Title IX Coordinator.

Although we have to make that notification, you will control how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

To report sexual harassment, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@rice.edu. To explore supportive measures and other resources that are available to you, please visit the Office of Interpersonal Misconduct Prevention and Support at <https://safe.rice.edu>